

December 24, 1951

Dr. Mortimer P. Starr
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University of California
Davis, California

Dear Mort:

Thank you for your kind words about Werkman & Wilson, and even for your less encouraging comments about graduate candidates. I am afraid that, at the instant, I can't recommend anyone for yourself, either in the category of "even half-good", or "junior genius".

What I had in mind about vitamin excretion is summarized in Davis' 1950 paper (*Experientia*), the reference to which is in the *W&W* bibliography. Vernon Bryson also had something to say about it in the last *Bacteriological Proceedings* (352-p. 55), but the word vitamin would have to be stretched for this purpose. Bernie Davis is particularly interested in the ecological implications of vitamin hoarding and excretion, and would certainly be glad to discuss them.

How is your work going- when I saw you in Chicago, you hinted that the problem had been licked (with respect to the limiting growth factor), but I take it from your letter that there may still be some complexities.

Your closing comment about 1951 hurt more than you could know. I hope that 1952 will be much better, and Esther joins me in wishing Betty, Nancy and yourself the very best.

Sincerely,

Hoshua Lederberg

1/85
what losses
in 1951?